United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/671
27 June 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council adopts resolution unanimously, approving Secretary-General's plans for settlement of Western Sahara question.

+ Follow-up Committee of International Conference on Central American Refugees hears statements by Secretary-General, Meeting President, Co-ordinator of Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America.

+ Palestinian Rights Committee ends North American Regional Seminar on Question of Palestine, hearing calls for international peace conference on that topic; begins North American Regional Non-Governmental Organizations Symposium.

+ A study released today by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs provides economic, social and environmental perspective to the year 2000; United Nations population study foresees world population of 8.5 billion within 35 years.

+ Actress Polly Bergen appointed Goodwill Ambassador for United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

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The Security Council this afternoon expressed its "full support" to the Secretary-General in his mission of good offices, pursued jointly with the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), with a view to settling the question of Western Sahara.

It took that action by adopting unanimously a resolution approving a report by the Secretary-General, containing the text of settlement proposals as accepted by Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) on 30 August 1988, as well as an outline of the plan provided by the Secretary-General in order to implement those proposals.

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The Council further called on the two parties to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General and the OAU Chairman in their efforts aimed at an early settlement of the question of Western Sahara.

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Calls for the international community to support the implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons were made today at a meeting at Headquarters today in a meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA).

The Meeting is being organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In an opening statement, Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar said CIREFCA's work with displaced persons and refugees was an important part of the peace process in Central America. Although the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) was due to expire in two days, it might well be extended to include other responsibilities.

The Meeting President, Arnoldo Lopez Echandi, Vice-President of Costa Rica, said that the year since CIREFCA was established had been decisive for Central America. The processes of dialogue, reconciliation and democratization had had a direct impact on the problem of Central American refugees. Despite the flows of returnees and a recent trend towards voluntary repatriation, however, the problem of uprooted people in Central America still constituted an urgent challenge.

Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, Co-ordinator of the Special Plan for Economic Co-operation for Central America and UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, said the Governments of the region had established priorities which were outlined in the 59 projects under discussion. A total of 400,000 persons would directly benefit from those projects.

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The Palestinian Rights Committee ended yesterday its North American Regional Seminar on the Question of Palestine, emphasizing that negotiations on the question of Palestine should be based on the "land for peace" formula embodied in a Security Council resolution of 1967.

In the Committee's conclusions and recommendations, which were adopted by consensus, participants said that negotiations based on a "two peoples, two States" solution would lead to peace in the region.

They also called for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, to be held under United Nations auspices, with the

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participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Beginning today its seventh North American Regional Non-Governmental Organizations Symposium on the Question of Palestine, the Committee discussed topics including international support on the question of Palestine, Palestinian policy and Israeli Government policy.

Among the speakers at the Symposium, Jeanne Butterfield, Chairman of the North American Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, said NGOs in North America were continuing to focus on the particular plight of Palestinian children. A successful campaign focusing on women political prisoners had also been launched.

* * *

Buoyant international trade and investment, a tighter world energy situation, growing unemployment and rising illiteracy in the 1990s are forecast in the Global Outlook 2000, a new study released today by the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA).

The study draws on data compiled over the last 30 years to provide an economic, social and environmental perspective to the year 2000.

According to the Outlook, the developed market economies will have an average growth of 3.1 per cent per year, while the least developed and heavily indebted countries are likely to have negligible growth or an absolute decline.

Reduced international political tensions should accelerate international trade and investment, according to the study. This could be further aided by reallocation of military-related investments, thus creating a favourable basis for sustainable economic growth throughout the decade.

In yet another study published today, the United Nations Population Division, in its 1990 revision of population and demographic figures, estimates that there are currently 5.3 billion persons on earth, and at the rate things are going, nearly 100 million more will be added during 1990. By the year 2025, the total population will be 8.5 billion, an increase of 60 per cent in just 35 years.

This biennial revision shows that the world population is growing at some 1.7 per cent each year, but by the year 2020 to 2025, average annual population growth may decrease to 1 per cent.

Population growth levels and trends differ markedly between the more developed and less developed regions of the world, according to the Population Division. In the last 40 years, the population of the more developed regions increased by 45 per cent, compared to an increase of 143 per cent in the less developed regions.

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Projections show that during the next 35 years, the population of the industrialized regions will increase by an additional 12 per cent while the population of many third world countries will increase by 75 per cent.

* * *

Television and movie actress Polly Bergen has been appointed Habitat Goodwill Ambassador, the Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Arcot Ramachandran, announced today.

Ms. Bergen succeeds previous Goodwill Ambassador Cicely Tyson and, in the tradition of Goodwill Ambassadors, will help promote United Nations goals and activities in alleviating homelessness and other human settlements problems throughout the world.

Global housing conditions, including access to shelter, water supply, sanitation and community services have been deteriorating steadily over the past decades, resulting in increased homelessness world-wide. Current estimates indicate that there are over 1 billion people living in deplorable housing conditions throughout the world, including more than 100 million homeless who are forced to sleep outdoors each night.

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Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/672
28 June 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly adopts, without a vote, resolution calling on international community to extend "generous assistance" to Government of Iran for relief and rehabilitation after earthquake in that country last week.

+ International Labour Conference ends three-week session in Geneva, adopting a number of resolutions, and new international standards on work and use of hazardous chemical substances at work.

+ Executive Committee of Palestine Liberation Organization complains to Secretary-General, in letter submitted by Permanent Observer of Palestine, about killing near Jerusalem, on 20 June, of three Palestinians by Israeli Border Guard.

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The General Assembly today adopted, without a vote, a resolution appealing to all Governments, specialized agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to extend generous assistance to the Government of Iran, for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the affected areas.

The appeal was contained in a resolution introduced by Pakistan and originally sponsored by 89 countries to which a number of others were added. In the text, the Assembly expressed its solidarity with and support for the Government and people of Iran. It also expressed gratitude to the States, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that were already providing emergency relief assistance.

The Assembly also welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of his Special Representative for the Emergency in Northern Iran and expressed appreciation for his efforts to strengthen co-ordination within the United Nations system for providing emergency assistance to the Government.

The representative of Pakistan, Nasim Ahmed, said in his statement that an additional 23 Member States had become sponsors of the draft. He added

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that under the draft, the Assembly would also be asked to request the Special Representative to prepare a report on the damage caused.

The acting Assembly President, Martin Johannes Huslid of Norway, said a further three Member States had asked to be included as co-sponsors. Before adjourning the meeting, he announced that the draft resolutions on the question of Namibia, recommended by the United Nations Council for Namibia, would be considered at a plenary meeting on Monday, 23 July.

In a statement to the Assembly, Kamal Kharrazi of Iran said that on 21 June, an earthquake registering 7.3 on the Richter scale had struck northwest Iran which had 4 million inhabitants. Based on the latest reports, more than 50,000 people were dead, 110,000 injured and 500,000 made homeless.

Following the disaster, he said, all national resources available were mobilized and rescue operations started immediately. There were some constraints hampering the rescue operation, such as aftershocks, bad weather in some parts and landslides which cut off the roads and threatened the rescuers. Mr Kharrazi stated that more than 50 per cent of the half million survivors were children under 15 years-of-age. In addition to shelter and health care, this large number of children had special needs that must be met.

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New international standards on work and on the use of hazardous chemical substances at work have been adopted by the seventy-seventh session of the International Labour Conference, which concluded in Geneva yesterday. The Conference also adopted a resolution linking environmental protection with employment creation.

More than 2,000 government, employer and worker representatives from 139 countries took part in the three-week session, which focused especially on the environment as it affects the world of work.

Guests at the Conference were Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC), and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Prime Minister of Poland.

The Conference adopted a new Convention and Recommendation on night work applying to all employed persons regardless of sex. It defines night work as "all work which is performed during a period of not less than seven consecutive hours, including the interval from midnight to 5 a.m.".

Facing up to the challenge of increased chemical hazards at the workplace, the Conference also adopted an international Convention and a Recommendation aimed at preventing or reducing the incidence of chemically induced illnesses.

Among the resolutions, two dealt with assistance to Namibia, appealing for more international co-operation with the newly independent country in the economic, social and cultural fields.

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In a resolution on environment, development, employment and the role of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Conference noted with concern the threat posed by continuing environmental damage to the quality of human life and the prospects for economic development and employment.

* * *

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Permanent Observer for Palestine, Zuhdi Labib Terzi, has called on the international community to take immediate action to stop Israel "from continuing its atrocities against the Palestinian people".

In a letter of 27 June to the Secretary-General, Mr. Terzi called attention to an Israeli attack near Jerusalem on 20 June, in which three Palestinian civilians were killed and 10 others wounded. Mr. Terzi stated that the attack, which lasted for two days non-stop, was carried out with live ammunition and rubber bullets, and that the village was currently under curfew.

The letter also requested the Office of the Secretary-General to issue a statement "condemning such acts of violence" and calling on Israel to abide by the 1949 Geneva Convention and the International Conventions on Human Rights.

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United Nations

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Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/673
29 June 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Follow-up Committee of International Conference on Central American Refugees receives $121 million in pledges during two-day Meeting at Headquarters, in support of 59 projects to aid refugees and displaced persons in the region.

+ Secretary-General informs Security Council that his report on United Nations Observer Group in Central America, due today, is delayed until Saturday because of helicopter accident during demobilization ceremony in Nicaragua.

+ Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, ending week-long session, call for measures to address those countries' special development problems and needs.

+ Nitin Desai, national of India, appointed Deputy Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil, June 1992.

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A total of $121 million dollars was been pledged by some 20 Governments during the First International Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held here on Wednesday and Thursday. The contributions were in support of 59 projects to aid some 2 million refugees and displaced persons in the region.

In the Meeting's Final Declaration, it called on the Governments of the affected countries and the international community to increase efforts for the implementation of the Conference's Concerted Plan of Action, and urged the affected countries to strengthen efforts to address the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, linking the solutions to national and regional development programmes and to actions aimed at combating extreme poverty.

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Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, expressed the Secretary-General's satisfaction with the progress made since the May 1989 Conference in Guatemala. He said the Secretary-General wished to commend the Governments' representatives of the Central American countries for their willingness to co-operate.

At a press conference yesterday, the President of the Meeting, Vice-President Arnoldo Lopez-Echandi of Costa Rica, expressed deep satisfaction at the outcome. He said that although the 59 projects which the five Central American Governments, Mexico and Belize had planned for the refugees and displaced persons cost $161 million -- $40 million more than the amount pledged -- more contributions were expected within the next few weeks.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a statement issued last night, informed the Security Council that he would not present his report on the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) to the Council today, due to an accident which occurred during Wednesday's demobilization ceremony in which two Nicaraguan helicopters crashed.

The final demobilization of less than 100 men from the southern front had been delayed because ONUCA had to use its helicopters to rescue the crash victims, the Secretary-General stated. Under those circumstances, he had thought it necessary to delay the presentation of the report until the demobilization was concluded and the final number of demobilized contras and the weapons returned to ONUCA was known.

The Secretary-General said the report would be presented to the Council on Saturday morning.

* * *

The Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries, Donor Countries and Organizations today ended its week-long session by calling for a broad range of national, regional and international measures to address the special development problems and needs of the small countries.

Sponsored by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Meeting adopted, without a vote, recommendations to that effect contained in a strategy, along with other portions of its report to UNCTAD.

In the text of the strategy, the experts state that island developing countries suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their smallness, remoteness, geographic dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, weak technological capacity and heavy dependence on imports.

They call for an integrated approach, and ask that a strong effort be made to ensure that environmental considerations be taken fully into account. They also ask that additional resources be applied to tourism, agricultu : and

fisheries -- areas where some island countries enjoyed a comparative advantage -- and recommend that efforts be made to explore the potential role of new technological developments for solving such problems as inadequate communications links and underemployment.

* * *

The Secretary-General today announced the appointment, with effect from 1 July, of Nitin Desai, a national of India, as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil, in June 1992.

Mr. Desai is currently Secretary and Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance of the Government of India. He is a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Expert Group on Climatic Change and is on the Governing Council of the Stockholm Environment Institute.

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DH/674
2 July 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General reports to Security Council that demobilization of Nicaraguan resistance was "completed at all locations" last Thursday, except for one which was expected to be completed on Friday.

+ Secretary-General is in Geneva to meet with Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq. Tells correspondents upon arrival at Palais des Nations he is hopeful the atmosphere for meetings is better.

+ Seventh United Nations North American Regional Non-Governmental Organizations' Symposium on Question of Palestine, ending session in New York, adopts final declaration calling for sanctions against Israel and curtailing of United States assistance to that country.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has informed the Security Council that the demobilization of members of the Nicaraguan resistance was completed at all locations last Thursday, 27 June, except for one in Nicaragua where a handful of contras remained to be demobilized. Their demobilization was expected to be completed the following day.

In a report to the Council of 29 June, the Secretary-General stated that the Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) had reported that he had received from the commander of each of the four "fronts" of the Nicaraguan resistance (the northern, central, southern and Atlantic) a document that confirmed the demobilization. In it, the commanders solemnly assured ONUCA, both orally and in writing, that "no arms or military equipment remain under their command or have been hidden".

The Secretary-General further reported that in Nicaragua, where the demobilization process started on 8 May, a total of 19,256 resistance members complied with the pact and surrendered 16,171 weapons. In all, ONUCA received nearly 15,000 small-caliber weapons, including AK-47s, other rifles and light machine-guns. The ONUCA also took possession of and destroyed four heavy machine guns, 134 mortars, 1,265 grenade launchers, over 1,300 grenades, 138 mines and 112 missiles.

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The Secretary-General, who arrived in Geneva over the weekend, was scheduled to meet with the Iranian Foreign Minister later today and with the Iraqi Foreign Minister tomorrow.

According to a United Nations official, the Secretary-General, asked upon his arrival at the Palais des Nations about his meetings with the two Foreign Ministers, had stated that he was "hopeful", and that the atmosphere was much better since the exchange of letters between the Presidents of the two countries. The Secretary-General also said he was "encouraged by the outpouring of international solidarity" following the earthquake in Iran. The international response had been "spontaneous and rapid", and he felt that a much better opportunity existed to implement Security Council resolution 598 (1987).

The Secretary-General met earlier today with M'Hamed Essaafi, his Personal Representative for the earthquake in Iran. Mr. Essaafi has been to Teheran where he had a meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister. He also visited parts of northern Iran affected by the natural disaster.

The Secretary-General was also expected to meet in Geneva with Jean-Claude Aimé, his Personal Representative on matters relating to the Middle East, following the meeting with the Iraqi Foreign Minister.

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A call for sanctions against Israel and for the suspension or curtailing of United States economic and military assistance to that country were among the recommendations adopted by the Seventh United Nations North American Regional Non-Governmental Organizations' Symposium on the Question of Palestine.

In a final declaration and plan of action adopted by consensus at the end of the three-day Symposium, the participants also urged the General Assembly to invoke the "Uniting for Peace" resolution to empower it to act on the Security Council proposal to dispatch a United Nations force to the occupied territories. That proposal was vetoed by the United States at a recent Council meeting in New York.

The final document also called on the United States and Israel to respond positively to the Palestinian peace initiative, which was a practical means towards the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region. The participants deplored the decision of the United States Government to suspend dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) adding that the action encouraged Israel's occupation and confiscation of and expansion of settlements on Palestinian land. They condemned the persistent attempts of the United States Government to prevent Palestinian participation in United Nations agencies and affiliated bodies.

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DH/674/Corr.1
3 July 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

CORRECTION

In the first paragraph of the Monday Highlights (2 July), the date on the third line should read Thursday, 28 June.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/675
3 July 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets at Palais des Nations in Geneva with Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq; says meeting has "contributed to improving atmosphere between the two countries".

+ Conference on Disarmament, currently meeting in Geneva, is addressed by Foreign Minister of German Democratic Republic; Foreign Minister of Poland sends message.

* * *

The Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq held a meeting today at the Palais des Nations in Geneva under the auspices of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

A communiqué, issued after the joint meeting, stated that the Foreign Minister of Iran, Ali Akbar Velayati, was accompanied by the Deputy Foreign Minister and three Ambassadors. The Iraqi Foreign Minister, Tariq Aziz, was accompanied by a Minister Plenipotentiary and three Ambassadors.

The Secretary-General was accompanied by his Personal Representative, Ambassador Jan Eliasson; and Giandomenico Picco, a senior official of the Secretary-General's Office who deals with matters relating to Iran and Iraq.

The communiqué said the meeting afforded the first opportunity for direct contacts between the two Ministers since their formal meeting, under the Secretary-General's auspices, of April 1989. Both sides, it stated, reaffirmed their support for the role of the Secretary-General in the implementation of resolution 598, which remained the framework within which all contacts between the two sides were taking place.

According to the communique, the Secretary-General believed that the meeting had contributed to improving the atmosphere between the two countries. The two Foreign Ministers had assured the Secretary-General of their continued co-operation with him as he pursued his efforts to implement the resolution.

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Continuing contacts were expected with both delegations during the course of the present week. The Secretary-General was confident that appropriate exchanges would continue, aiming at the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 of 1987, the communiqué stated. A visit to the area by the Secretary-General was being considered.

A United Nations official said earlier today that the Secretary-General, on coming into the Palais des Nations this morning, had forecast that the meeting was sending to the two peoples, the Iranians and the Iraqis, the right message that both Governments were committed to finding a peaceful solution to the problem as soon as possible.

The Secretary-General went on to say that it was the first time the two Foreign Ministers would be together with him and to exchange views. Psychologically, this was very important. He had always wanted to have the two Foreign Ministers together, and "it was a source of satisfaction" to him.

* * *

Addressing the Conference on Disarmament today, the Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, Markus Meckel, outlined the changes taking place in his country in connection with the unification of Germany, together with a number of steps which could be taken to further disarmament and increase European and global security.

On assuming the presidency of the Conference for the month of July, Bogumil Sujka of Poland read out a message from the Foreign Minister of Poland, Krzysytof Skubiszewski, stating that improvement of the international atmosphere was bearing fruit in various parts of the world and that United Nations mechanisms were being utilized to an increasing extent. States were striving to base international relations on mutual respect and on the strict observance of the principles of morality and international law.

Mr. Meckel, Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, recalled that relations between Germany and Poland had for centuries been marked by hate, enmity and wars. Both countries had drawn a lesson from that history, he said, adding that Poland's interests would be taken into account in the process of German unification. "What we are aiming at is a united Germany that will never again be able nor seek to become a centre of military power, he said.

"A united Germany will have no territorial claims against other States", he said. The process of German unification was part and parcel of the pan-European unification process. The key in both cases was disarmament and the creation of new security structures in the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/676
5 July 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General opens second regular session of 1990 of Economic and Social Council.

+ Council session to place special emphasis on resources for development and external indebtedness of the developing countries.

+ Secretary-General comments after receiving initial report on mission of his Personal Representative to Israel and occupied territories.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, opening the summer session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva, said yesterday, 4 July, this year's special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation had produced encouraging results. It had served to promote a better understanding of varying perceptions of central economic and social issues, and had clearly marked "the renewal, after a long hiatus, of the North-South dialogue".

The Secretary-General said the Council, in addressing the question of follow-up to the special session, must see how that renewed political will could make a positive contribution to the elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

Citing the recent positive developments in Eastern Europe and the integration of the Eastern European economies into the international economy, the Secretary-General said the critical responsibility towards the majority of the world's population living in developing countries, who faced deprivation and dispossession, must not be forgotten. "The Council must ensure that these developments contribute towards achieving genuine progress in our efforts to promote growth and development and eliminate hunger, poverty and disease", he added.

He said he was especially concerned about the continuing deterioration in the economic conditions in Africa. Despite extensive reform and reorganization of their economies, the African countries continued to face

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serious difficulties in obtaining adequate financial resources to support the reform measures and their efforts to promote growth and development.

One of the most crucial issues of the 1980s had been the problem of external indebtedness of the developing countries which now stood at a staggering $1,200 billion, he said. His Personal Representative on Debt, Bettino Craxi, would be presenting his report on Saturday.

Citing one of the central issues to be discussed at the session, the Secretary-General said the Council would have to find credible answers to the effects of over-consumption and poverty, and also of rapid population growth, on the environment and on development.

* * *

The Council yesterday heard an opening statement by its President, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan of India, who said the world economy as a whole slowed down considerably last year although the developed market economies managed to sustain a steady growth during that period.

Against that background, he said, the choice of the priority theme for this session -- "Resources for development and external indebtedness of the developing countries" -- was appropriate and timely. Despite that, there had been some positive developments in the field of development financing in recent months.

The session, which will continue until 27 July, will also consider the implementation of the Declaration adopted by the special session on international economic co-operation and the United Nations System-wide Action on Drug Abuse Control.

The 54-member Council is also expected to devote special attention to topics which include international co-operation in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant; international co-operation in the field of informatics; new developments in the prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); and United Nations operational activities for development. The inclusion of Liberia in the list of least developed countries will also be under consideration.

The Council's traditional general discussion on international economic and social policy will this year be based on the World Economic Survey 1990, an annual review and analysis of the global economic situation.

* * *

The Secretary-General received yesterday an initial report from his Personal Representative, Jean-Claude Aimé, on the latter's mission to Israel and the occupied territories, from 22 June to 1 July.

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In a statement issued at Headquarters, the Secretary-General said that during this visit, Mr. Aimé met with Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Levy and twice with Defence Minister Arens. He also met Justice Minister Meridor, Major-General Vilnai, responsible for the Southern Command, and Mr. Goren, Co-ordinator for activities in the occupied territories. Throughout his visit, Mr. Aimé had wide-ranging discussions with Palestinians, in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nablus, Bethlehem, Jericho and Ramallah.

The Secretary-General said the principal concern conveyed by the Palestinians was their profound feeling of vulnerability resulting from lack of protection. That fear was expressed by those living in refugee camps as well as residents of towns and villages. The Palestinians were also deeply concerned about the need to ensure their basic human and economic rights. Their grievances were conveyed to the Israeli authorities, who were urged to take the necessary steps to address them.

The Secretary-General stated that he intended to pursue these matters in the coming days. At the same time, he underlined that there was no substitute for a negotiating process that would take fully into account the views of all the parties concerned.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/677
6 July 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General gives his annual press conference in Geneva. Among the topics covered are the Middle East, Western Sahara, Iran/Iraq, Afghanistan and the debt problem. Holds two meetings with the delegation of Morocco and POLISARIO, respectively, on the situation in Western Sahara.

+ Secretary-General to travel to Addis Ababa to address Oganization of African Unity Summit, and will then make official visit to Guinea.

+ Secretary-General appoints Christian Tomuschat his representative and expert on human rights situation in Guatemala; appoints Pierre Méhu new Director of United Nations Information Service in Geneva.

+ Commission on International Trade Law concludes twenty-third session, adopting report to General Assembly.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday held his annual press conference in Geneva.

Asked by correspondents if the "new possibilities for world peace", which might have been opened up by the ending of the East-West confrontation in Europe, could be threatened by destabilization, and whether there was anything the United Nations could do to minimize that threat, the Secretary-General said he followed the situation in Eastern Europe closely, with great interest but at the same time with respect, because he considered those problems "internal problems of Member countries".

He said that as Secretary-General, it was his intention to take advantage of this new atmosphere to obtain much more support for all his peace efforts. What was happening in Europe was having a positive effect in all the countries of the world, not only in Europe but also in other continents.

The Secretary-General mentioned as evidence of that new development the direct dialogue on Tuesday, 3 July, between Iran and Iraq, and the direct contact which took place for the first time yesterday between the Government

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of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) at two meetings under his auspices.

Asked about the prospects for Afghanistan, the Secretary-General said the United Nations would continue its involvement and would continue to struggle for an international consensus. He said everybody was working, on a daily basis, to present to the parties formulae which would provide Afghanistan with a government freely elected by the Afghan people.

On a question about the report of Jean-Claude Aimé on his mission, and whether the Secretary-General thought sanctions against Israel would be more practical steps to curb the violence in the occupied Arab territories, the Secretary-General replied that as a diplomat, he thought the way to solve the problem was through dialogue. However, he was encouraged by the fact that the Israeli Government had spoken to his Personal Representative and had allowed him to be in touch with both the Israeli authorities and the Palestinians.

Asked about the budgetary situation of the United Nations at the moment, the Secretary-General said it was a "sad question", but that the present United States Administration was trying to help the Organization to obtain a change in the position of the United States Congress on payment of the United States arrears. At the same time, the Organization had difficulties with the financing of its peace-keeping operations.

A United Nations official told the press in Geneva today that the Secretary-General had met twice with the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the question of Albanians who had taken refuge in foreign embassies in Tirana, Albania. The official said the Secretary-General had been involved in trying to find a solution and had exchanged messages with the Albanian Foreign Minister and also with the Foreign Minister of Italy by telephone. In his message to the Secretary-General, the Albanian Foreign Minister had indicated that "a positive solution to the problem could be expected".

It was also announced that Secretary-General had held two meetings yesterday afternoon -- the first with the Moroccan delegation, headed by the Director-General of Political Affairs in the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, followed by a meeting with the POLISARIO delegation, headed by the representative in charge of foreign affairs of the Front.

* * *

The Secretary-General will arrive in Addis Ababa on Sunday evening, 8 July, to attend the annual Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). He will address the Summit on 9 July, the official opening of the Conference.

The Secretary-General will remain in Ethiopia until 10 July. While in the Ethiopian capital, he will meet with other Heads of State or Government, Foreign Ministers and other dignitaries, as well as with Ethiopian leaders.

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From Ethiopia, the Secretary-General will travel to Conakry for a three-day official visit to Guinea, where he will meet with the President, Brigadier-General Lansana Conte. The Secretary-General will also pay visits to the towns of Boke and Kamsar on the northeast coast of Guinea.

The Secretary-General will leave Conakry for New York on 13 July.

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The Secretary-General today appointed Professor Christian Tomuschat of the Federal Republic of Germany as his representative and independent expert to examine the human rights situation in Guatemala and to continue assistance to the Government in the field of human rights.

In accordance with a resolution of the Commission on Human Rights, Professor Tomuschat is to prepare a report on assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights, which will contain recommendations for submission to the Commission.

The Secretary-General announced yesterday in Geneva the appointment of Pierre Mehu of Haiti as the new Director of the United Nations Information Service at Geneva. Mr. Mehu has been Chief of the Meetings Coverage Section of the Department of Public Information at Headquarters.

* * *

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) ended its twenty-third session today by adopting its report to the General Assembly.

During the two-week session, it has been considering a number of questions including a draft legal guide for drawing up international countertrade contracts, which has gained significance particularly for developing countries. The Commission also discussed model rules for electronic funds transfers and draft laws regarding international procurement and letters of credit.

The Commission expressed the view that the programme for the United Nations Decade of International Law (1990 to 1999) should take account of the importance of international trade law and the work of UNCITRAL in strengthening the rule of law in international economic relations.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/678
9 July 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General notes progress towards solution of Western Sahara question, following talks with Moroccan and POLISARIO representatives in Geneva. Meets with Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Arafat.

+ Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Debt, Bettino Craxi, says debt problem is an issue of responsibility of rich countries towards poor ones, in statement delivered as he presented his report at public ceremony in Geneva.

+ Economic and Social Council, continuing debate on economic and social policy, hears statements by Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund and Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar held talks in Geneva from 5 to 9 July with representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) on how best to implement the peace plan for Western Sahara, unanimously approved by the Security Council on 27 June. The plan calls for a United Nations-supervised referendum in the Territory, which would allow the people of Western Sahara to choose between independence or integration with Morocco.

The Secretary-General received, successively, Abdelatif Filali, Foreign Minister of Morocco, and Mustafa Bechir Sayed, in charge of the POLISARIO Front's external relations.

According to an announcement, the Secretary-General considered that following the talks, which took place in a "cordial atmosphere", progress had been achieved towards a just and honourable solution of the question of Western Sahara through a credible referendum.

(more)

The Secretary-General and the parties examined, among other things, the adoption of a code of conduct during the referendum campaign, the extension of the suspension of military operations and direct dialogue between the two parties under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

A United Nations official told correspondents later that the Western Sahara technical mission had been postponed for one week and would leave around 23 July. The official also said that because of continuation of the Western Sahara talks beyond the expected date, the Secretary-General had cancelled his visit to Addis Ababa for the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit and also his planned official visit to Guinea.

Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim A. Farah would represent the Secretary-General at the OAU Summit and the Secretary-General was expected to return to New York tomorrow, 10 July.

The official also reported that the Secretary-General had met on Sunday morning with the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Yasser Arafat, for about one and a half hours. Following their meeting, the Secretary-General had said that together with Jean-Claude Aime, his Personal Representative on Israel and the occupied territories, they had provided Mr. Arafat with some information about Mr. Aime's mission to the area, and that they had taken the advantage of that meeting to discuss with him the general situation in the Middle East.

When asked about chances for a resumption of the dialogue between the United States and PLO, the Secretary-General had said it was not for him to interfere. However, as Secretary-General, he was in favour of dialogue which could "lead to something positive".

* * *

The less developed countries' debt is an issue involving "all of us with the risk of leading industrialized countries and multilateral institutions into a tunnel -- because of a deficit of will to carry out financial innovation and joint actions -- at a time when we can reap the greatest benefits from the 'peace dividends'".

This was stated by Bettino Craxi, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on Debt, who presented his report to the Secretary-General at a public ceremony at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on Saturday.

Mr. Craxi said developing countries, due to their limited level of economic evolution, were "dwarfs" compared with the "giants" of world trade, the industrialized countries and their multinationals.

The problem of world trade should not be seen in terms of abstract free trade among unequal partners, he said, but rather in terms of common markets shared by rich and poor countries. In this regard, the industrialized countries of the Group of Seven, -- collectively and individually, according to their geographical position -- were faced with leadership problems related

to the recovery and development needs in Latin America, the Caribbean region, Asia, the Mediterranean basin, sub-Saharan Africa and now Eastern Europe, Mr. Craxi stated.

The developing countries' foreign debt had now reached enormous proportions, he said, pointing out that, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it had by now reached $1,200 billion, whereas the World Bank cited the figure at roughly $1,150. The flow of interest and amortization payments had also recorded a rapid and substantial increase, expecting to reach $175 billion in 1990. The primary cause of this "anomalous" development of the less developed countries' foreign debt was to be found in the lack of international rules of monetary and fiscal constitution.

However, he said, the fact could not be ignored that some Asian countries, which recorded a heavy foreign debt, succeeded in reducing the debt burden by increasing exports and the returns of the domestic capital reinvested by their businessmen on national markets.

Hence, the debt crisis could be overcome when the State and the market-oriented sectors of the economy operated correctly, people were prepared to make sacrifices and there existed financial institutions underpinning this process.

Mr. Craxi pointed to three new money operations into which the flow of private financing to less developed countries could be channelled (inclusive of Eastern European countries): project financing, commodity financing and industrial credit.

The Brady plan was a courageous approach in the right direction, he said. It recognized that the bank debt must be reduced and that a substantial financial intervention was required. It also recognized that indebted countries needed new money. However, he said, the Brady plan was underfunded and that much more must be done along the lines of what the Brady plan was requiring from banks by taking into account "that the rich countries' Governments bear specific ethical and political responsibilities towards poor countries".

Among recommendations, Mr. Craxi mentioned the need for a co-ordinated strategy by means of an agency or committee within the international financial institutions (IMF and the World Bank) together with the regional banks concerned for each "large regional area". For the poorest countries a debt service forgiveness was required with reference to aid credits.

Also, an adequate flow of public and private resources for developing countries should be insured in order to foster their development. The objective of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for official development aid (ODA) by industrialized countries must be reaffirmed, Mr. Craxi said.

(more)

Finally, developing countries, including Eastern European countries, should adopt sound domestic policies agreed upon with the international financial institutions.

* * *

As the Economic and Social Council continued its discussion on economic and social policy, many speakers addressed the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the consequences for the developing world. Fears were expressed that the present close co-operation between West and East might throw North-South co-operation on the periphery and thus worsen the already deteriorating economic and social situation in third world countries.

Among those addressing the Council, Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), said that if the current population growth rate in the developing world continued at or near its present rate of 2 per cent a year into the next century, the total, 100 years from now, could be as high as 14 billion.

The fastest growth in population would occur in the least developed and poorest countries, she said. From a regional perspective, the biggest increases would take place in southern Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa. Those expanding numbers were making it increasingly difficult for countries, given their current resources, to provide even the most basic social needs.

Kenneth K.S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said that on the international side, the strengthened debt strategy had begun to be implemented, and the recent renegotiations of commercial bank debt had displayed considerable ingenuity. However, strong doubts remained whether the present approach would yield sufficient debt and debt-service reduction.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/679
10 July 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in message, tells Organization of African Unity Summit in Addis Ababa of progress towards resolution of Western Sahara question; of measures against natural disasters, refugee problem.

+ UNRWA protests against Israeli Civil Administration's refusal to allow extension of school year for five West Bank schools.

+ Economic and Social Council, continuing general debate, hears statements by Director-General of World Health Organization, Executive Secretaries of four regional economic commissions.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a message to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government meeting in Addis Ababa, said encouraging progress had been made towards the resolution of the problem of Western Sahara during recent meetings in Geneva. This, he said, was an issue on which the United Nations and OAU had worked very closely together for several years, adding that the two parties, Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), had now reached a point where they had not only an agreed set of proposals for the settlement of the problem but also a precise plan and time-frame for their implementation.

In the message, the Secretary-General noted that even as positive political change was taking place, natural disasters and other emergency situations continued to undermine efforts towards economic and social development in Africa. The adoption of a Plan of Action against Natural Disasters by the OAU Ministerial Conference in February was an important step to mitigate their severe effects, he said.

There were now over 4 million refugees on the African continent while an even greater number had become internally displaced within their countries of birth, primarily as a result of civil strife compounded by drought and famine, the Secretary-General stated. However, political initiatives were under way in a number of other countries to end conflicts and thus create the conditions

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For information media—not an official record

under which refugees and displaced persons could be reintegrated into their societies.

The Secretary-General was not able to attend the OAU Summit yesterday, due to his current involvement in a number of sensitive issues which required his continued presence in Geneva. His message was read out by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, Abdulrahim A. Farah.

* * *

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has expressed concern that the Agency's attempt to salvage the school year for some 2,300 pupils at five schools in Tulkarm camp, in the West Bank, has been prevented by the Israeli Civil Administration.

The five schools, closed by military order from 11 February through 22 May and during several curfews in May and June, were scheduled to reopen today, 10 July, for one month to make up for lost time. However, the Civil Administration demanded that schools be closed for the summer holidays as of 2 July and warned UNRWA's Jerusalem Field Office that it would forcibly prevent the Agency from reopening the Tulkarm schools.

In view of the decision by the Israeli authorities, UNRWA decided not to reopen the schools, in order not to expose the children to any possible harm.

The UNRWA deplored this latest intervention in its education programme which prevented the Agency from providing an appropriate education service to Palestine refugee children and from making the most effective use of public funds donated for this purpose.

* * *

Continuing its general debate on international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, the Economic and Social Council yesterday heard from the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, who said the international community could not allow Governments' economic debts to become "debts in human lives". He appealed to the Council to protect the right to health even as it strove to reduce debt and the economic burdens of countries.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) was rapidly becoming a most serious threat to human existence, he stated. At least 8 million people might currently be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). More that half of them would develop AIDS within 10 years, and most would die.

Also addressing the Council were the Executive Secretaries of four regional economic commissions.

Gerald Hinteregger, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), said the recent historic developments made it abundantly clear

that the new Europe should encompass all parts of the continent. While there was no agreed blueprint for a pan-European confederation or a "common European house", the main element was the restructuring of the international order in Europe, with the inclusion of the Soviet Union and the United States as integral parts of the European strategic political and economic structure.

S.A.M.S. Kibria, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), said the past decade was generally viewed in far less negative terms in the Asia-Pacific region, where average economic growth was the most robust of the world economy, despite the fact that many Asian-Pacific countries continued to stagnate, with well over half a billion human beings still mired in poverty, illiteracy and disease. He said the adoption of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in 1988 was a major milestone for the Commission in focusing government attention on the neglected social dimension of development.

Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), said the performance of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean during the past year was again characterized by stagnation and inflation. The most significant increases in inflation tended to occur in countries with large populations.

Tayseer Abdel Jaber, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), said the firm cease-fire between Iraq and Iran had had positive results for the two neighbouring countries and for the whole region. The Lebanese strife, however, had been escalating over the past year, increasing considerably the suffering of the Lebanese people. It was hoped that concerted Arab and international efforts would bring a solution to that conflict, support its independence and unity of that country and allow it to regain sovereignty over its territory. It was particularly urgent that United Nations efforts should continue in order to reach a settlement of those conflicts which resulted in the suffering of the whole region. The economic situation in the region had shown some improvement in 1989 and the gross national product (GNP) had grown by almost 3 per cent, compared with 1.3 per cent in 1988.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/680
11 July 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative in Tirana says a possible solution is in sight on the situation of Albanian refugees attempting to leave the country.

+ Secretary-General says indebtedness has plunged hundreds of millions of people into despair and abject poverty. He calls for significant reduction in debt and interest rates and for a substantial flow of resources to developing countries.

+ President of Economic and Social Council summarizes discussion thus far, as Council nears end of general debate. Representatives of International Labour Organisation and International Fund for Agricultural Development address Council.

* * *

It was announced at Headquarters today that the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Tirana, Steffan de Mistura, had reported to him this morning that things were going well and there was hope for a solution.

Foreign embassies in the capital estimated that about 6,000 Albanians had taken refuge within their compounds in an attempt to leave the country. According to the Secretary-General's Spokesman, the embassies and the Governments involved were negotiating with the Government of Albania to find a solution, and the United Nations was there to assist them.

In May, the President of Albania, Ramiz Alia, introduced reforms which included the lifting of a ban on religious observances, some economic changes and permission for Albanian citizens to travel abroad.

The Secretary-General visited the country at that time and received assurances from the Albanian authorities that they had embarked on a process which would continue, and that they had no intentions of going backwards.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who on Saturday, in Geneva, received the report of his Personal Representative on Debt, Bettino Craxi, said that for the majority of the developing countries, the burden of external debt constituted a major obstacle to the legitimate aspirations of their peoples, to economic growth and social well-being.

The Secretary-General cited the dramatic plunge in raw-material prices, an unprecedented rise in real interest rates and heightened protectionism as having caused the indebtedness which had affected hundreds of millions of people, especially in Latin America, Africa and certain parts of Asia, leaving them in despair and abject poverty.

The will of the developing countries to make adjustments was no longer in question, the Secretary-General said. However, such adjustments should be accompanied by economic growth, with more account being taken of the political and social realities of those countries.

Following last year's special session of the General Assembly, which condemned the debt situation and sought solutions acceptable to all parties, the Secretary-General said he had the idea to entrust a specific mission to a prominent person such as the former Italian President, to undertake a far-reaching inquiry into the means of resolving the debt problem or, at the very least, to lay the foundations for a progressive solution. That solution involved a significant reduction in the debt and rates of interest and the resumption of a substantial flow of resources to the developing countries, and not, as was the case today, in the reverse direction.

* * *

The President of the Economic and Social Council, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan (India), summarizing the discussion thus far at the Council's second session in Geneva, said the first part of the debate had been focused on the debt crisis and the decline in the economies of the developing countries. Delegations of those countries, although welcoming the changes in Eastern Europe, were apprehensive about the diversion of resources to that region instead of to developing nations.

Representatives of industrialized countries, he continued, had reiterated their commitment to assist the South and had said they would not reduce the financial resources to those countries, provided that popular participation and democracy existed there. Almost all speakers agreed on the need to revitalize the world economy through bilateral and multilateral co-operation.

Among yesterday's speakers, Herbert Maier, of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), said the most valuable resources for development were human resources. However indispensable an adequate flow of financial resources might be, those resources were wasted unless there was a trained, committed and organized labour force; an enterprising management which treated workers as individuals; and a Government committed not only to economic efficiency, but also to upholding standards of fairness and social justice.

(more)

Idriss Jazairy, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), said the best approach to sustainable poverty alleviation was to stimulate the entrepreneurship of the poor, instead of through welfare. Participatory and group-based methods had also proved particularly effective in improving the productivity of small farmers by giving them access to credit, input markets and improved technologies.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/680/Corr.1
12 July 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

CORRECTION

On page 1 of the Wednesday Highlights, the first headline should read as follows:

"Secretary-General's Special Representative in Tirana says progress is being made towards a solution of the problem of Albanians wishing to leave the country."

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/681
13 July 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Foreign Minister of Haiti asks for United Nations help in organizing elections in his country and in getting the country out of its "critical" situation.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council on Cyprus, says it is important that the leaders of the two communities meet with him as soon as possible to resume talks and to launch negotiation of overall agreement.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met yesterday with Haitian Foreign Minister Kesler Clermont to discuss a possible role of the United Nations in monitoring elections in that country in November.

At a press conference at Headquarters today, the Foreign Minister said various Governments had tried to organize elections which failed because of lack of credibility. His country was ready to get an electoral process under way, but it needed help.

He said Haiti did not have a professional army with a tradition of maintaining peace in an orderly manner during elections and he called on the international community to help his Government in such an effort.

The Haitian Government has requested 45 civilian United Nations observers to monitor and assist the country's Electoral Council in preparing for the elections. During the electoral process, 400 United Nations election observers would be present as was the case at the Nicaraguan elections earlier this year.

Last month, after consulting with the Haitian Government, the Secretary-General appointed Joao Augusto de Medicis of Brazil as his Personal Representative on Haiti. Since then, Mr. de Medicis has since travelled to Haiti and reported back to the Secretary-General.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General briefed the Security Council earlier today, asking its members to reflect on the Haitian request. In March the Secretary-General received a letter from Haiti's provisional President, Ertha Pascale-Trouillot, requesting United Nations assistance in organising elections.

* * *

The Secretary-General, in a report of 12 July to the Security Council on his good offices mission in Cyprus, stated that it was important that the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus meet with him again as soon as possible to launch negotiation of an overall agreement between the two sides.

The Secretary-General said that after the disappointment of his last meeting with President George Vassiliou of Cyprus and Rauf Denktash, it should first be assured that a new meeting would yield the intended results. He therefore had proposed that separate discussions take place in Nicosia to prepare the ground for talks.

The Secretary-General said there had been a "general deterioration" of the atmosphere because of developments in recent months and that there was an increasing sense of frustration because of the lack of progress in talks. The coming period would be of critical importance, he said, calling on the two communities to make a conscious effort to convey to each other a "clear message" that promoted mutual confidence.

The latest meeting between the parties and the Secretary-General took place at United Nations Headquarters at the end of February and the beginning of March. At that time, it did not prove possible to make advances in drafting an outline for an overall agreement.

Members of the Security Council held consultations this afternoon on a number of subjects -- Western Sahara and Iran-Iraq, in light of recent meetings held in Geneva; the situation in the Arab occupied territories; and Cyprus.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/682
16 July 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report on implementation of 1989 Declaration on Apartheid, says he is "greatly encouraged" by positive developments in South Africa; finds political process still at early stage.

+ World Bank's "1990 World Development Report", first major study of world's poor in a decade, says poverty is likely to decline in year 2000, except in sub-Saharan Africa.

+ Economic and Social Council appeals to international community for co-operation and aid to mitigate consequences of Chernobyl nuclear accident. Hears statements by Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe and United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a report to the General Assembly on the progress made in implementing its Declaration on Apartheid and Its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, declared that he was "greatly encouraged by the positive developments that have taken place within South Africa since the beginning of this year".

The "bold and courageous policy" to which South African President F.W. de Klerk had committed his Government opened up "distinct possibilities for the dismantling of the apartheid system", said the Secretary-General. He added that "equally encouraging and statesmanlike" had been the vision and forebearance displayed by the black leadership which, despite long years of injustice and oppression, had renewed its commitment to a peaceful process for ending apartheid and building a non-racial and democratic society.

The Secretary-General observed that, of the measures required by the Declaration to create a climate for negotiations, the measure relating to the ban of political parties and movements had been implemented in full; other measures had been implemented in part. "While it is evident that an important process has been set in motion, many believe that the Government should implement all measures in their totality to create the appropriate atmosphere", he stated.

(more)

Parallel with the need to establish a climate for negotiations was the urgent requirement to end the violence, the Secretary-General said. The issue of violence, not least in Natal, urgently needed to be addressed at the highest level since, if it was allowed to continue unrestrained, the consequence could well present serious difficulties for the political process.

The Secretary-General largely based his observations on the report of a six-member team of senior United Nations officials which visited South Africa last month at his behest to obtain first-hand information on the latest developments in the country.

* * *

It was announced at Headquarters today that the operation organized during last week by the United Nations to evacuate Albanians had been successfully completed by yesterday. The Secretary-General's Personal Representative for the operation, Staffan De Mistura, reported that a total of 4,786 Albanians had been evacuated from 11 embassies.

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A new "World Development Report", the first major study of the world's poor in a decade, issued today by the World Bank, states that poverty is likely to decline in the year 2000, except in sub-Saharan Africa.

The World Bank, the largest provider of aid to developing countries, says in the report that 1.1 billion people -- one fifth of the world's population -- still live with annual incomes of less than $370 a year. The world's poverty is concentrated in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where around 50 per cent of the population is poor.

Presenting key conclusions to the press at United Nations Headquarters recently, Lyn Squire, Staff Director of the World Bank's 1990 Development Report, said it was especially significant because it was about the "ultimate objective of development -- the eradication of poverty".

He said that in the coming decade, the Bank would concentrate more consistently on ridding the world of poverty by following a comprehensive two-part strategy: generating better income-earning opportunities for labour, and disseminating new technologies in order to increase the capacity of the poor to respond to those opportunities.

Where both parts of the strategy had been implemented, the poor had not only benefited from economic growth, they had contributed to it, he said. On that basis the Report was able to conclude that stimulating growth and helping the poor were mutually reinforcing objectives.

The study found that there had been some progress against poverty in developing countries that had taken part in the overall economic growth which

(more)

had occurred since the 1960s. Indonesia, for instance, had reduced the share of its population in poverty from almost 60 per cent to less than 20 per cent, Mr. Squire said.

The report called for increased flows of aid to the poor countries but only where countries were seriously committed to the reduction of poverty. Mr. Squire pointed out that cutting military expenditures in the industrialized countries by just 10 per cent could pay for a doubling of aid.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council has urgently appealed to the international community for co-operation and assistance to mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. A resolution on the subject was adopted unanimously last Friday.

In the discussion prior to adoption of the text, speakers said the ecological consequences of the accident were of such magnitude that radioactive contamination of neighbouring and other European territory was a source of great alarm.

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Gerald Hinteregger, presented a report on the Chernobyl accident and said the Governments of the Soviet Union, Byelorussia and the Ukraine had asked the Secretary-General to include in the agenda of the Council an item on elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

In a draft resolution accompanying the request, he said the three Governments had requested the Secretary-General to prepare proposals for a programme of international co-operation, and also dispatch to the affected areas an inter-agency mission to evaluate the priority needs and to include the results of the mission in his report to the forty-fifth Assembly session.

M'Hamed Essaafi, United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, said that in spite of the huge volume of post-accident decontamination and large-scale agrochemical and land improvement operations, the situation of the Chernobyl disaster remained serious.

One fifth of the entire agricultural land had been lost, he said, and about 1 million hectares of forest had been affected by radiation. The millions of people living in contaminated areas, including vulnerable groups and especially children, had to be safeguarded against the complex combination of radiological, medical, socio-economic, environmental and psychological effects of the disaster. While the General Assembly had proclaimed the 1990s the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, no such global effort currently existed to fight technological and industrial disasters, he concluded.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/683
17 July 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Lebanon requests Security Council to extend mandate of United Nations Force in Lebanon, which expires on 31 July, and says Force's presence in southern Lebanon remains of "utmost necessity".

* * *

The Government of Lebanon has requested the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires on 31 July, for another period of six months.

In a letter to the Council, the Permanent Representative of Lebanon said the presence of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon remained of utmost necessity.

He said his Government had been faced with Israel's continued occupation of parts of the area for more than 12 years and its "adamant" refusal to withdraw its forces in order to allow UNIFIL to perform its mandate.

Israel had continued its daily acts of aggression against the civilians of southern Lebanon, and had been engaged in the process of linking the economic and administrative infrastructure of that area to its own, the letter stated.

It was announced at Headquarters today that Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding arrived in Naqoura on Sunday, 15 July, and yesterday and today was touring various UNIFIL units, in particular "some trouble spots in the Norwegian area". Mr. Goulding will travel to Beirut tomorrow to discuss renewal of the UNIFIL mandate with the Lebanese Government.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/684
18 July 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras express concern at "violent" turn events have taken in Nicaragua as result of last week's general strike.

+ Permanent Representatives of Haiti, Bahamas and Colombia request General Assembly meeting to resume consideration of agenda item on enhancing effectiveness of principle of periodic and genuine elections, and technical assistance for Haiti's electoral process.

+ Disarmament Conference re-establishes Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear-Test Ban, which last functioned in 1983. Hears statement on North Atlantic Council Declaration.

+ Economic and Social Council adopts report of High Commissioner for Refugees; hears introductory statement on capital punishment.

* * *

The Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have expressed their concern at the violent turn events have taken in Nicaragua as a result of the general strike proclaimed last week in the country. The strike, they said, had led to paralysis of the country, to confrontations between different groups and to loss of life.

In a letter of 16 July to the General Assembly, and containing a declaration adopted by the Central American countries, they said they were profoundly concerned that those events had created a "threat to the nascent process of democratic institution-building and national reconciliation" that had emerged from the recent elections in Nicaragua.

They reiterated their "firm and resclute support" for the new Government under the presidency of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, and urged the various sectors of Nicaraguan society to abandon the violent attitudes and to contribute to the strengthening of democracy in the country.

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For information media—not an official record

They also appealed to the international community to extend diplomatic and financial assistance to the Government of Nicaragua in the search for a solution to the present crisis.

* * *

The Permanent Representatives of Haiti, the Bahamas and Colombia have requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the Assembly to resume consideration of agenda item 114, entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections", and to consider technical assistance for the Haitian electoral process in the context of human rights.

Annexed to the letter, dated 17 July, is a letter of 23 June from the Interim President of Haiti, Ertha Pascal Trouillot, to the Secretary-General, requesting United Nations assistance to Haiti in the holding of free, fair and credible elections.

The request called for observation and verification of the elections; finalization of conditions that would permit international observation of the election; assistance in ensuring security of the election; observation by United Nations personnel; and an offer of assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in establishing conditions of security. These, said President Trouillot, were the prerequisites for the smooth conduct of credible elections.

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The Conference on Disarmament, meeting in Geneva, yesterday agreed to re-establish its Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear-test Ban. Mitsuro Donowaki of Japan was appointed Chairman of the Committee, which last functioned in 1983.

The Conference requested the Ad Hoc Committee to initiate, as a first step towards achieving a nuclear test-ban treaty, substantive work on specific and interrelated test-ban issues. It also requested the Committee to examine an international seismic monitoring network as part of an effective verification system of such a treaty. It should take into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, drawing on the knowledge and experience that had been accumulated over the years in that field in the successive multilateral negotiating bodies and the trilateral negotiations.

In a statement to the Conference, Tessa A.H. Solesby of the United Kingdom described some of the major points in the Declaration issued by the North Atlantic Council meeting in London on 5 and 6 July. She spoke on behalf of the States members of the Conference on Disarmament which are also members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

She said the Declaration set out a common approach on conventional arms control in the period up to the 1992 Helsinki meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and beyond. The Alliance attached the highest priority to completing this year a conventional forces in Europe agreement, as well as a package of confidence- and security-building

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measures. Immediately after signature of the conventional forces in Europe agreement, follow-on talks with the same membership and mandate should start, focused on limiting manpower in Europe. At the time that treaty was signed, a commitment would be given on manpower levels in a unified Germany. Beyond 1992, the Alliance foresaw new conventional arms control negotiations, within the CSCE framework, aimed at further far-reaching measures to limit the offensive capability of conventional armed forces in Europe.

The Declaration reaffirmed the importance of North American conventional and United States nuclear forces in Europe, she stated. It also pointed the way to a reshaping of the conventional forces in Europe of NATO's integrated force structure towards smaller, more mobile units, made up of an increasingly multinational corps. The Declaration reaffirmed the key principles of the Alliance's strategy: to keep the peace, the Alliance must maintain for the foreseeable future an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional forces, based in Europe, and kept up-to-date where necessary. But, as a defensive alliance, NATO had always stressed that none of its weapons would ever be used except in self-defence and that it sought the lowest and most stable level of nuclear forces needed to secure the prevention of war.

Among those addressing the Committee on the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee was the newly elected Chairman, Mitsuro Donowaki of Japan, who said the Conference had been prevented from substantial work on the item since 1984 due to the deadlock caused by conflicting group positions on the question of the mandate. Following a series of dialogues with each delegation, on an informal and individual basis, a way had been found out of the impasse. For the Western European and Other States, Hendrik Wagenmakers of the Netherlands said consideration of the question of a nuclear-test ban was still at the exploratory stage. It was therefore proper that the mandate given to the Committee did not require it to enter into negotiation of a treaty text.

Indrajit Singh Chadha of India, speaking on behalf of the Group of 21, said the setting up of the Committee should lead to concrete negotiations towards a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty on an urgent basis, and the Committee should not get bogged down in an endless debate on a work programme or on verification prerequisites while the central issue of negotiating a treaty on a nuclear-test ban remained unresolved.

Speaking for the Group of Eastern European States, Peter Dietze of the German Democratic Republic said the Committee should settle down to work as soon as possible. At the same time, his Group supported the idea that the coming months should be used to prepare a more detailed programme so that the Committee could proceed with its work without delay at the beginning of the Conference's 1991 session.

Hou Zhitong of China said his delegation would participate actively in the Committee and work towards the early achievement of a nuclear-test ban. China and France had not participated during the last two years of operation of the Committee. For France, Olivier de la Baume said his Government had indicated earlier that it would refrain from participating in an exercise

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which responded to a conception of nuclear disarmament which it did not share. France's position of principle on the subject was well known and had not changed.

Ian R. Kenyon of the United Kingdom, while associating his delegation with the statement made by the Netherlands, said his Government's position was that in the interests of defence needs, it would have to continue to rely on nuclear arms and on conducting underground nuclear tests. A complete nuclear-test ban remained a long-term objective and would be achieved only by stages.

The United States delegate, Stephen J. Ledogar, said his country had agreed to accept the non-negotiating text as the Committee's mandate. A comprehensive test ban remained a United States objective. His Government would continue to approach such a test ban in a step-by-step manner after a number of important security concerns had been assured.

Speaking for the Soviet Union, Nikita S. Smidovich said he fully joined in the statement made by the German Democratic Republic. His delegation intended to participate actively in all areas of work of the Committee. The Soviet Union wished to see a full ban on nuclear tests achieved.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council yesterday adopted the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) without debate, and heard an introductory statement on a report on capital punishment.

The UNHCR report stated that developments in the global refugee situation continued to be characterized by three considerations which formed the backdrop for the High Commissioner's last report to the General Assembly through the Council. These were: the attainment of durable solutions to some of the world's long-lasting refugee situations; the deterioration, nevertheless, of the overall global refugee situation in that new influxes occurred amidst a generally less receptive international environment for refugees and asylum-seekers; and, the financial crisis faced by the Office which worsened considerably, putting in ever more serious jeopardy the capacity of the organization to meet even the most basic needs of refugees.

Speaking on capital punishment, Eduardo Vetere, Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, said there was a need for improving the quality of law enforcement officials and other personnel by making them more aware of the general principles of law and human rights.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/685
19 July 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

@ Security Council expresses support for Secretary-General's plan of action to assist two Cyprus communities in reaching negotiated solution; Council issues statement after considering Secretary-General's report on his good offices mission in Cyprus.

@ Economic and Social Council decides to include Liberia in list of least developed countries, bringing to 43 numbers of countries in that category.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon issued a statement of support for the Secretary-General's plan of action to assist the two Cyprus communities in reaching a negotiated solution.

In the statement, which was read out by Council President, Razali Ismail (Malaysia), the Council endorsed the assessment of recent developments and plan of action contained in the Secretary-General's report on his mission of good offices with respect to Cyprus.

The Secretary-General's assessment is that negotiations are unlikely to succeed without the promotion of a more understanding relationship between the two communities. He calls on them "to stop mutual recriminations and to concentrate efforts on promoting reconciliation". The plan calls for Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to meet with the Secretary-General as soon as possible to agree on an outline and launch the negotiation of an overall agreement. To ensure that such a meeting would yield the intended results, it proposes that it be preceded by separate discussions in Nicosia.

Also by this afternoon's statement, Council members reaffirmed Council resolution 649 (1990) of 12 March which was accepted by both sides, and reiterated that resolution's call for the leaders of the two communities to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General and to refrain from any action or statement that could aggravate the situation. They requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council by 31 October about the implementation of his plan of action.

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Prior to the meeting, the Council members held consultations on the Secretary-General's report and on a request by the Foreign Minister of Cyprus that it take appropriate measures in respect to attempts by Turkey to change the status quo of the city of Varosha.

In his letter dated 18 July requesting a Council meeting, the Foreign Minister expressed his Government's opposition to the possible settlement by Turkish Cypriots in Varosha. He said new illegalities were being contemplated by the Turkish Cypriots which could constitute a clear violation of the status quo of Varosha that "could endanger the maintenance of the cease-fire and have serious repercussions on peace and security in the area". The Council adopted in 1984 a resolution calling "attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible".

* * *

The Economic and Social Council today decided to include Liberia in the list of least developed countries, bringing to 43 the numbers of countries in that category and to request the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures for the participation of Liberia in the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris from 3 to 14 September.

Among the speakers addressing the Council, Amelia Ward of Liberia said the request by her country for least developed country status had been prompted by the extreme adverse difficulties confronting the economy. The unfortunate crisis being experienced in Liberia had resulted in loss of life, destruction of infrastructure so vital for development and displaced people. Those people would eventually be resettled as soon as peace efforts materialized making the least developed country status even more impelling. She assured the Council that the challenge of rehabilitation and reconstruction would be tackled seriously and the required economic measures would be put in place to ensure that the Liberian economy became vibrant once more.

The Council also heard the introduction of four resolutions: on capital punishment, revitalization of the Council, a special high-level meeting of the Council in 1991 and enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/686
20 July 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General presents to General Assembly his report on progress towards dismantling apartheid in South Africa. Assembly postpones consideration of Haiti's request for United Nations assistance during forthcoming elections.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today introduced before the General Assembly his report on progress towards the dismantling of South Africa's apartheid system.

In his statement before the Assembly, he said the South African State President's declared intention to embark on a policy which would dismantle that system was perhaps the most encouraging feature of the report. However, the process which had begun in South Africa was of so fundamental a character that further bold and imaginative measures would be required to ensure its fulfilment. It was "the essential reservoir of goodwill" of the South African people, above all else, that offered the real possibility of a just solution in South Africa.

The Secretary-General said he was convinced that unless progress was also made to address the unjust socio-economic inequalities deriving from the apartheid system, the process of building a new South Africa would not be realized.

The report is based on the findings of a six-member team of senior United Nations officials which visited South Africa last month to obtain first-hand information on recent developments in the country.

In the report, the Secretary-General declares that he is "greatly encouraged" by positive developments within South Africa. The "bold and courageous policy" to which President F.W. de Klerk had committed his Government "opens up distinct possibilities for the dismantling of the apartheid system", he states.

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The 1989 Assembly Declaration on Apartheid focused on the need to create a climate for negotiations through five key steps: release of political prisoners; unbanning of political parties and movements; removal of troops from townships; lifting of the state of emergency; and cessation of political trials and executions. The Secretary-General observes in his report that the provision on unbanning has been implemented in full; other measures have been implemented in part.

The Assembly decided to discuss the report in a resumed session from 12 to 14 September, just prior to the opening of its forty-fifth regular session.

Haiti, the Bahamas and Colombia had requested that the Assembly consider Haiti's request to the Secretary-General for United Nations assistance in observing and verifying the forthcoming elections in that country.

However, the Assembly decided this morning, on the basis of consultations between the Assembly President and the representatives of the requesting countries, to take up the question at a date to be announced.

In a statement to the press, Haiti's Foreign Minister, Kesler Clermont, said he did not doubt that it would be possible to obtain a very large consensus in favour of United Nations assistance. Such assistance would permit the elections to take place in a peaceful atmosphere and lead to credible results which would contribute to national as well as regional stability.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/687
23 July 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), in third round of direct talks in Costa Rica mediated by Secretary-General's Personal Representative, consider such issues as armed forces, human rights and electoral law.

* * *

The third round of direct talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) began last Friday in Costa Rica. The Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Alvaro de Soto, has been mediating between the delegations of El Salvador, headed by the Minister of Justice Oscar Santamaria, and of FMLN, headed by Commander Shafick Handal.

A United Nations official said today that the participants had met continuously over the weekend. Among the issues that were considered were armed forces, human rights and electoral law. It was expected that this round of talks would be concluded on Wednesday. He said that so far Mr. de Soto had been working in direct talks with the two delegations as well as exercising his intermediation with both delegations, separately.

Commenting on the talks, Mr. de Soto told the press in San Jose that the technical aspects of the terms of a cease-fire were expected to be addressed before mid-September.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/688
24 July 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Five permanent members of Security Council, in letter to Secretary-General, say they made "significant progress" during discussions on enhanced United Nations role in solution to question of Cambodia, at Paris meeting on 16 and 17 July.

+ Special Committee against Apartheid agrees with Secretary-General's assessment on dismantling apartheid; calls for continued pressure on Pretoria authorities for change.

+ Resolutions on capital punishment, Israeli economic practices in occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, and implementation of declaration on international economic co-operation among seven texts adopted by Economic and Social Council.

+ World Food Programme (WFP) recalls from Massawa a ship carrying a technical mission to facilitate distribution of aid to people facing risk of starvation in northern Ethiopia, due to lack of clearance from Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

* * *

The five permanent members of the Security Council say they made 'significant progress" in their discussions on an enhanced United Nations role in the solution to the question of Cambodia, during their last meeting on 16 and 17 July in Paris.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, issued yesterday, the five said progress had been made on two key elements of a solution based on an enhanced United Nations role: the transitional arrangements regarding the administration of Cambodia during the pre-election period, and military arrangements. They also agreed to accelerate their work on what they consider the remaining essential areas for a comprehensive political settlement: free and fair elections, the safeguarding of human rights and international guarantees.

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For information media—not an official record

The representatives of China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States made clear their belief that the time was past due for the Cambodian parties to "turn from the battlefield to the negotiating table". They called on the parties to agree to the establishment of a Supreme National Council composed of representative individuals with authority among the Cambodian people, so that a meeting could be held among all involved in trying to reach a comprehensive political settlement.

During the meeting, which was the fifth session of discussions on the subject, the five were briefed, at their request, by Under-Secretary-General Rafeeuddin Ahmed on the practical aspects of a United Nations operation, in the light of recent fact-finding missions to Cambodia. The five will meet again on the issue in New York on 27 and 28 August.

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The Acting Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Marjorie R. Thorpe (Trinidad and Tobago), said in a statement issued today that the Committee welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and Its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

The Committee said it agreed with the Secretary-General's observation that although the process of change in South Africa had started, it was still at a preliminary stage. It stressed the fact that the report put an end, once and for all, to the views that were expressed in some quarters that profound and irreversible changes had already taken place in South Africa.

Of the measures required by the Declaration to create a climate for negotiations, only the lifting of the ban on political parties and movements had been implemented, she said. Normal political activity continued to be hindered by the provisions of repressive legislation, in particular the Internal Security Act. The other four required measures had been implemented only partially. Beyond the repeal of the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act, the Government did not envisage calling a session of the Parliament this year to repeal basic structures of apartheid, or repressive legislation, such as the Internal Security Act.

It was clear from the report, she stated, that the police and the rest of the security apparatus continued their violent activities against the black population. Furthermore, the authorities in Pretoria did not seem to have undertaken any serious efforts to address the threat to change posed by the violence of the extreme right wing or by the conflict in Natal.

The Special Committee urged the international community to continue exerting pressure on South Africa to effect a speedy end to apartheid, noting that the Declaration had become a supportive element to the process of change that South Africa had embarked upon.

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The Economic and Social Council today adopted seven resolutions and decisions concerning capital punishment; population; the role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic development; strengthening multilateral co-operation in international economic affairs; Israeli economic practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories; implementation of the declaration on international economic co-operation; and enlargement of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Among the resolutions, one on capital punishment invited member countries to respond to a questionnaire to be sent by the Secretary-General in preparation of the fifth quinquennial report on capital punishment, in 1995. It also noted that during the period under review, an increasing number of countries had abolished capital punishment.

With regard to the role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit periodically to it information on emerging trends and problems in the world economy.

Under a resolution concerning Israeli economic practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, taking into account the Israeli settlement practices, and to submit the report to the General Assembly next year through the Council.

With regard to the implementation of the Assembly's Declaration of last April on international economic co-operation, the Council recommended to the Assembly that it include that item in the agenda of its forthcoming session. The Assembly was asked to accelerate steps to put into effect the commitments and policies agreed upon in the declaration and to ensure that they were translated into concrete measures.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) announced today that it had recalled a technical mission to the Red Sea port of Massawa because final clearance had not been received from the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) for the United Nations flagship to enter the port.

The Danish ship flying the United Nations flag left Djibouti on 14 July and had been awaiting clearance into Massawa for over a week in an effort to reopen it for future shipments of humanitarian food aid to the people of northern Ethiopia. The port has been closed since February when it was attacked and captured by forces of the EPLF.

The technical mission was requested by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to facilitate the distribution of food aid to Eritrea and Tigray provinces in the northern part of the country where over 2 million people face risk of starvation.

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According to the WFP, the objective of the thwarted mission was to assess the safety of the port and the working condition of its infrastructure along with the condition of the roads stemming from the port. The WFP said it would continue its contacts with the EPLF in an effort to reach an agreement allowing for reopening of the port.

Massawa was considered critical for relief efforts because it was the most effective and quickest route to the drought-stricken parts of northern Ethiopia. In the meantime, the WFP said it would continue its relief operations in Ethiopia through the more southern port of Aseb.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/689
25 July 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General "strongly regrets" position taken by Eritrean People's Liberation Front not to grant clearance for ship carrying United Nations Technical Survey Team to enter Massawa and reopen port for delivery of urgent humanitarian supplies.

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A United Nations spokesman told the press at Headquarters today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar strongly regretted the position taken by the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) not to grant clearance for the ship carrying the United Nations Technical Survey Team to enter Massawa, so that the port could be rapidly reopened for the delivery of urgent humanitarian supplies.

In a statement attributable to himself, the spokesman said the suspension of the mission meant that the famine-stricken and war-affected population of Eritrea would be deprived of essential humanitarian assistance vital for their survival.

The mission had been carefully planned by the World Food Programme (WFP), and had been authorized after it had obtained assurances of support and co-operation of all the parties concerned, he said. The EPLF had originally given clear assurances that it would allow the ship, which was flying the United Nations flag, to enter the port and to carry out the survey necessary for urgent relief operations to be resumed.

In view of the extreme urgency of the situation, the Secretary-General would continue his efforts to obtain the co-operation of the Eritrean rebels for the port to be reopened, the official said.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/690
26 July 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Third round of direct talks between Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), mediated by Secretary-General's Personal Representative, concludes in Costa Rica with substantive agreement reached on protection of human rights.

+ Permanent Representative of Lebanon, in letter to Secretary-General, "strongly condemns" Israeli practices which led to wounding of Norwegian soldier in confrontation between Norwegian contingent of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and Israeli Defence Forces.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs briefs correspondents on United Nations Conference on "Conversion: Economic Adjustments in an Era of Arms Reduction", to be held in Moscow 13 to 17 August.

* * *

The third round of direct talks between the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN, concluded early this morning in San Jose, Costa Rica, with substantive agreement reached on the protection of human rights.

A communique issued after the completion of the talks said the parties agreed to take immediate measures to protect the life, integrity, security and freedom of Salvadorian citizens, and to put an end to the practices of kidnapping, disappearance and torture. The parties agreed to prohibit abductions carried out by unidentified agents and pledged that kidnappings would not be practised during night hours.

A commitment was also reached to give wide support to the rights of habeas corpus and asylum; freedom of association, including the right to unionize; as well as freedom of speech and of the press.

In accordance with the Geneva accords signed by the parties last April, it was agreed that a United Nations mission to verify human rights would be established once the parties entered into a cease-fire.

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The Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto, told the press in San Jose that the parties during this round of talks had agreed to the terms of that mission. He said the mission would have the possibility of monitoring patterns of behaviour on human rights in El Salvador for a year -- a period of time which could be renewed.

Mr. de Soto said earlier this week that he hoped agreement on a cease-fire would be reached by mid-September.

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A United Nations official told the press at Headquarters yesterday that a confrontation between the Norwegian battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Israeli Defence Forces had led to the wounding of a Norwegian soldier. The incident took place in the Kawkaba region in southern Lebanon, when the United Nations troops tried to prevent the Israeli forces from building a road in the area.

In a letter addressed to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Permanent Representative of Lebanon explained the incident, saying that the United Nations troops had blocked the road with a vehicle flying the United Nations flag. The Israelis, however, had forced their way through the barricade, using a bulldozer to move aside a troop-carrier belonging to the United Nations, thus wounding the Norwegian soldier.

The Lebanese letter strongly condemned the Israeli practices and called on the international community to take the necessary steps to put an end to those "acts of aggression".

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An international conference on "Conversion: Economic Adjustments in an Era of Arms Reduction" will be held in Moscow from 13 to 17 August. Organized by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, in co-operation with the Soviet Peace Fund, the Conference will be attended by more than 100 participants from some 40 countries world-wide.

With the improvement in the international climate, and especially the dramatic development in East-West relations, the prospects for arms limitation and disarmament are now more promising than ever before, states the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Major unilateral troop cuts are already taking place and further substantial reductions are expected with the conclusion of the negotiations on conventional forces in Europe in Vienna. Significant cuts in military spending have also been announced by many Governments, including the Soviet Union and the United States.

This is the first time that a conference on the subject of conversion has been organized by the United Nations. A central issue to be discussed will be the reorientation and reallocation of resources within economies carrying out arms reductions. In identifying ways of redeploying or retraining the thousands of workers and other personnel who will be affected by plant

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closings and layoffs, the Conference will consider both the benefits and the costs of conversion.

Briefing correspondents on the Conference, Under-Secretary-General Yasushi Akashi said today that the idea of conversion had acquired a great deal of attention recently. "We are in an era of openness and transparence", he said. One should not, however, minimize the difficulties of transition to more peaceful economies. But, in the long run, the economies would be strengthened and there would be more resources available for social welfare and budgetary reductions.

Mr. Akashi said the Moscow Conference was being convened at a timely juncture in order to explore the implications of conversion, including the national experiences, the difficulties faced and the possible solutions to such difficulties.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/691
27 July 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council on United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), recommends extension of mandate of Force until 31 January 1991. In addendum, he draws Council's attention to recent confrontations in village of Kaoukaba between Norwegian Battalion sector and Israeli Defence Force.

+ Secretary-General is "pleased" at results of talks between El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) and at agreement reached on human rights issue.

+ United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) announces Secretary-General's appointment of Michael Heyn as Special Co-ordinator of Emergency Relief Operations for Liberia.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six months, until 31 January 1991.

In his report of 24 July to the Council, which covers the last six months, the Secretary-General said that although the Force had been unable to fulfil its mandate to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces, it continued to make an important contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security in a volatile area.

In an addendum to the report, the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Council to recent incidents on 12, 23 and 25 July in the Norwegian Battalion sector in the village of Kaoukaba. He said the Battalion, which lay wholly within the Israeli-controlled area, had experienced difficulties and confrontations with the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) when UNIFIL had used vehicles and other obstacles to try to block activities of the IDF and the de facto forces in that sector.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General said that on 21 and 22 July, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs Marrack Goulding who wa visiting the area, and the UNIFIL Force Commander had raised the matter with military and civilian authorities in Israel. At a meeting with the Israeli Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Benjamin Netanyahu, it was agreed that a meeting should be held on 31 July between the Force Commander and the Israeli officer commanding the Northern Command in order to resolve the problem.

The Secretary-General further reported that on 23 July, however, there was a new confrontation between the IDF and the Norwegian Battalion at which an officer of the Norwegian Battalion of UNIFIL was injured. On 25 July, two IDF bulldozers again entered the Norwegian Battalion sector. Repeated attempts by UNIFIL officers to negotiate a stop to this further violation failed because the IDF officer-in-charge refused to speak with them.

The Secretary-General said that those incidents raised questions about the viability of the policy described in paragraph 12 of his report. He had urged the Government of Israel that its troops should respect the Norwegian Battalion's area of operation. If the Israeli forces continued to operate in the Norwegian Battalion section, it might become "necessary for the Council t consider whether UNIFIL's role in that area should be changed", the Secretary-General stated.

In his report, the Secretary-General also drew the attention of the Council to the "continuing gravity of the Force's financial situation". Although there had been a slight reduction in total unpaid assessments, they were still at the very high level of $307 million. The Secretary-General sai this represented money owed by the United Nations to the member countries tha had voluntarily contributed troops to serve in UNIFIL.

A United Nations official told correspondents today that the technical mission which was scheduled to go to Western Sahara last week, would leave this weekend.

A team of about 30 staff members would review all aspects of a possible operation, including accommodations for staff, communications, administration and vehicles during their 10-day stay .

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in the negotiating process between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), Alvaro de Soto, had returned to Headquarters and had reported to the Secretary-General on the latest round of talks which adjourned at dawn yesterday in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The official said the Secretary-General was "pleased at the results of the talks", in which his Representative played an active role.

For the first time, the parties had reached agreement on a substantive issue, human rights, which was of central importance to the negotiation and to the solution of the decade-long Salvadoran conflict. A broad monitoring role for the United Nations was foreseen in the agreement, once a cease-fire was in place -- also under United Nations verification.

The official went on to say that yesterday's agreement was still subject to the successful negotiation of the many thorny issues remaining on the agenda. Yet it should provide impetus for what promised to be a difficult negotiation in the period ahead, he concluded.

* * *

The United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) in Monrovia has announced that the Secretary-General, in the light of the prolonged crisis in Liberia, resulting in hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees in neighbouring countries, has appointed Michael Heyn as Special Co-ordinator of Emergency Relief Operations for that country.

Mr. Heyn is the Resident Representative in Liberia of the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organization and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDRO/UNDP). He will be co-ordinating in the field the work of those United Nations agencies which will be concerned with providing the United Nations system's response to the humanitarian needs of the affected population.

According to an UNDRO report on the subject, the situation in Monrovia had continued to worsen and Liberian refugees were fleeing into Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast. The Liberian capital was without water, electricity and communications. Tribal killings and the looting of houses and shops continued and several countries were sending ships to evacuate their citizens wishing to leave.

Mr. Heyn will be stationed in Conakry, Guinea, until it is safe to return to Monrovia.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/692
30 July 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is "deeply saddened" by loss of life in attempted coup in Trinidad and Tobago last Friday.

+ Secretary-General expresses "horror and dismay" at reports of massacre of civilians in Liberia.

+ Kofi Annan is appointed Controller, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance. He succeeds Luis Maria Gomez, who has been appointed Associate Administrator of United Nations Development Programme, effective 1 September. Abdou Ciss, at present Director of Administration in the United Nations Office at Geneva, succeeds Mr. Annan as Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Human Resources Management.

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A United Nations spokesman said today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was following the situation in Trinidad and Tobago with "great anxiety". In view of the delicacy of the situation, he did not wish to comment further, but he was deeply saddened by the loss of life. The Secretary-General hoped that further bloodshed would be avoided, and that the Prime Minister and other officials taken hostage would be freed unharmed.

According to reports, at least 30 people were killed and 300 wounded in the attempted coup on Friday.

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In another announcement the spokesman said the Secretary-General had read "with horror and dismay" reports of the massacre of civilians in Liberia. Throughout the crisis in Liberia, he had repeatedly appealed for the protection of the civilian population and once again wished to renew this appeal. The Secretary-General had designated Michael Heyn, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Monrovia, to co-ordinate United Nations assistance to the displaced persons within Liberia, in order to alleviate to the maximum possible their suffering.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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Kofi Annan, appointed by the Secretary-General to the post of Controller, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, succeeds Luis Maria Gomez. Mr. Annan was Assistant Secretary-General in the Office of Human Resources Management beginning in February 1987. Before that, he was Director of the Budget Office and Financial Services from January 1984, after serving as Acting Director of the Administrative Management Service.

Abdou Ciss, Director of Administrative of the United Nations Office at Geneva succeeds Mr. Annan as Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Human Resources Management. Mr. Ciss had most recently been the head of the administration of one of the largest and most successful United Nations operations, the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG).

William H. Draper III, Administrator of UNDP appointed Mr. Gomez as Associate Administrator of UNDP, effective 1 September, succeeding Andrew J. Joseph, who will retire on 31 July.

Mr. Gomez, served as United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Controller for Programme Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation since March 1987. From April 1989 to May 1990 he also acted as Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Administration and Management. He was Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs from November 1984 to February 1987. In addition to other senior posts in the United Nations, Mr. Gomez served with UNDP in various positions from 1966 to 1980, especially in Latin America.

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